

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 090905
ORIGIN INR-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 CIAE-00 NSC-05 /038 R

DRAFTED BY INR/RNA/SOA:GGBGRIFFIN:MP
APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON,JR
S/S: MR. SEBASTIAN
P: JOHN FORBES
NEA:ADUBS
INR/DDR: MPACKMAN
INR/RNA:PSTODDARD
NEA/PAB:MCKEE

-----231421Z 095091 /47

R 221536Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

S E C R E T STATE 090905

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PK, US

SUBJECT: BHUTTO ALLEGATIONS OF US SUPPORT FOR OPPOSITION

REF: ISLAMABAD 3866

1. RE BHUTTO ALLEGATIONS CONTAINED IN PARA 3 OF REFTEL, INR OFFICER GRIFFIN WISHES TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO PAKISTAN HE AT NO TIME EVINced "GLEE" THAT THE OPPOSITION HAD PROVED SO STRONG. TO THE CONTRARY, IN VIRTUALLY EVERY CONVERSATION HE HAD WITH PAKISTANIS, GRIFFIN EXPRESSED SADNESS AT ONGOING POLITICAL DISSENSION, SAYING THAT PAKISTAN HAD ALREADY UNDERGONE ENOUGH TROUBLES IN ITS 30-YEAR HISTORY, AND HOPING THAT DISTURBANCES WOULD SOON CEASE. HIS REMARKS WERE MOST NOTICEABLY RECORDED BY NOTETAKER DURING CONVERSATION WITH PUNJAB

SECRET

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PAGE 02 STATE 090905

CHIEF MINISTER QURESHI ON APRIL 5. (LAHORE CONSUL GENERAL GAMON ALSO DRAFTED MEMORANDUM OF THAT CONVERSATION.)

2. THE FACT OF MATTER IS THAT GRIFFIN WAS CAREFUL TO MAINTAIN DETACHED ATTITUDE TOWARD CURRENT PAKISTAN POLITICAL TURMOIL, KNOWING PROPENSITY OF PAKISTANIS TO FIND CONSPIRACY BEHIND EVERY ACTION, AND HAVING HEARD

MORE THAN ONCE ALLEGATIONS THAT US WAS SUPPORTING

OPPOSITION. IT IS INTERESTING THAT SEVERAL (ANTI-BHUTTO) PERSONS GRIFFIN MET WONDERED ALOUD WHY USG CONTINUED TO SUPPORT BHUTTO IN LIGHT OF HIS ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS. MANY PERSONS RAISED THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE WITH GRIFFIN, WHO CONSISTENTLY RESPONDED THAT THE SUBJECT WAS ONE OF PRIMARY CONCERN TO THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION.

3. IF THE QUESTION OF GRIFFIN'S ACTIVITIES IS AGAIN RAISED BY GOP OFFICIALS, EMBASSY SHOULD BE PREPARED TO RESPOND ALONG LINES OF PARAGRAPH 1. GRIFFIN PLANS TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER IN SIMILAR VEIN WITH AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE VEST.

4. IN EVENT GOP OFFICIALS AGAIN ALLUDE TO RUMORS OF U.S. ASSISTANCE TO OPPOSITION, EMBASSY SHOULD CATEGORICALLY REJECT SUCH ALLEGATIONS AND STATE THAT U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS HAD NO DESIRE OR REASON OR MADE ANY EFFORT TO SUPPORT BHUTTO'S OPPOSITION OR TO INTERFERE IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS IN PAKISTAN.
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Sent Date: 22-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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